Time Allowed : 3 Hours

General Instructions :
(i) This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All questions are compulsory.
(ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
(iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION -A READING 20 MARKS

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. [8]

Each year nearly 1.2 million people die and millions of other are injured or disabled as a result of road traffic crashes. The vast majority (over 90%) of all road traffic deaths and injuries occur in low-income and middle-income countries.

In high-income countries, most of those killed or injured in road traffic crashes are drivers and passengers of four-wheeled vehicles. In low-income and middle-income countries, however, “vulnerable road users” - pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists and users of public transportation - constitute a higher proportion of road users, and consequently make up a larger proportion of those injured or killed on the roads.

This report focuses on young road users, defined as those under 25 years of age. The document highlights the main risk factors for road traffic injuries, noting how many of these risks are elevated in youth. It stresses that successful prevention programmes can be put in place to protect young people, and presents examples of interventions from different geographic and cultural contexts that have been shown to be effective.

Children and young people under the age of 25 years account for over 30% of those killed and injured in road traffic crashes. Of the 383046 road traffic deaths that were recorded in this age group around the world, at least half were road users from the World Health Organization’s African and South-East Asia Regions. However, the highest rates of road traffic fatalities in the 0-25 year age range occur among road users in the African and the Eastern Mediterranean regions.

Road traffic injuries among those under 25 years rank as the eighth leading cause of death around the world. However, when analysed by five-year age groups the significance of road traffic injuries rises dramatically. Among 15-19 year-olds, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death, while among the 10-14 years and 20-24 years age groups they are the second leading cause of death.

Children under five years of age, and in particular infants under 1 year, being especially vulnerable to other diseases and conditions, have the lowest ranking for road traffic deaths.

On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, answer the following:
(i) Where does more than 90% of road traffic accidents and injuries occur?
(ii) Are passengers of four-wheeled vehicles form the majority of those killed in road accidents in low and middle income countries? (True/False)
(iii) .......... account for 30% of those killed and injured in road traffic crashes.
(iv) Which age group is least affected by road accidents and injuries?
(v) Identify the word in para 2 which means ‘to be at risk’.
(a) disabled (b) intervention
(c) vulnerable (d) killed
(vi) The highest rate of road traffic fatalities in the 0-25 year age range is in the:
(a) low and middle-income countries.
(b) African and the Eastern Mediterranean regions.
(c) high-income counties.
(d) African and South- East Asia Regions.
(vii) Road accidents and injuries is the second leading cause of death in the age group of:
(a) 10-14 (b) 20-24
(c) both (c) and (d) (d) 15-19
(viii) ‘Vulnerable road users’ are:
(a) young road users
(b) form a high proportion of road users in low and middle income families
(c) car drivers
(d) passengers of four-wheeled vehicle

Ans :
(i) In low-income and middle-income countries
(ii) False
(iii) Children and young people under the age of 25 years.
(iv) Children under five years of age.
(v) (c) vulnerable
(vi) (b) African and the Eastern Mediterranean regions
(vii) (c) both (c) and (d)
(viii) (b) form a high proportion of road users in low and middle income families.
2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. 

Usually, you would need to visit a national park or sanctuary to sight beautiful wild animals such as the wild boar, blue bull (Nilgai), spotted deer, chinkara, blackbuck, Indian hare, or monkeys. Today, just go round to any agricultural field and you may find plenty of wild herbivores roaming the grounds freely and feeding on the crops and natural palatable plants therein.

When forests were abundant, ecologically sound and self-sufficient, the movement of wildlife inside the Protected Areas/forests in search of food would extend no further than the buffer zone. Over time, however, the alarming rise in human population has put immense pressure on forest wealth, leading gradually to large swaths of the forest, including the buffer zone and corridors, being converted into agriculture fields and industries, and cleared for the construction of urban zones, big dams, railway tracks, roads and highways, mining corridors, electricity transmission lines and other development works that massively reduce forest area and shrink good-quality wildlife habitats.

Resultantly, as wild herbivores made to move or migrate, through natural corridors, from one forest to another in search of food, they found themselves in agricultural fields, which are full of easily accessible feeding material. This has been the gradual effect of encroachment into the homes of wildlife by humans, compounding the human-wild animal conflict to boot. Exposed, such animals also come as easy prey for poachers or become roadkill. As per Delhi-based NGO Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), over 1,000 tigers have been killed in the country by poachers over the last two decades. Over 650 instances of roadkill have been recorded in the last five years.

So, on the one hand, wildlife outside the protected areas is in great peril. On the other, farmers and locals in and around the forest-fringe areas are at a loss due to crop damage and the danger posed to human and livestock lives. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF & CC) estimates that between 2014 and 2017, one death took place every day due to human-animal conflict. It is observed that the wild herbivores damage between 15-50% of the standing crops in the field and may affect 50-75% of the total agricultural area. Hence, a balanced solution in the form of a ‘Special Management Plan’ (SMP) is a need of hour, not only to protect wildlife outside protected areas and forests but also to safeguard human lives and livelihoods.

2.1. On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, answer the following: 

(i) What is buffer zone ?

Ans : Buffer zone is the natural habitat of the wild herbivores.

(ii) What is the most important reason behind the massively reduced forest area ?

Ans : The alarming rise of human population is the most important reason behind the massively reduced forest area.

2.2. Answer the following questions : 

(i) What is buffer zone ?

Ans : Buffer zone is the natural habitat of the wild herbivores.

(ii) What is the most important reason behind the massively reduced forest area ?

Ans : The alarming rise of human population is the most important reason behind the massively reduced forest area.

(iii) What compounds the human-animal conflict ?

Ans : The encroachment of human habitation by animals in search of food compounds the human-wild animal conflict.

(iv) State two reasons which have led to the decrease of animal population especially tigers, as discussed in the given passage.

Ans : Poaching and roadkill are the two reasons which have led to the decrease of animal population.

(v) Which word in the passage means ‘edible’ ?

Ans : palatable

(vi) Where would one find wild herbivores like Nilgai nowadays ?

Ans : Agricultural fields

(vii) Farmers of which area are mostly affected by straying of wild herbivores into agricultural fields ?

Ans : (c) edge of the forests

(viii) The need of the hour is to:

Ans : (d) implement ‘Special Management Plan’

SECTION B - WRITING & GRAMMAR (30 MARKS)

3. ‘Two heads are better than one.’ This proverb emphasises the importance of team work. Write an article or an experience of your life in 100-150 words that highlights the importance of team work in getting success.

Ans : Two Heads are Better Than One

By Manoj

The proverb ‘Two heads are better than one.’ stands valid in all spheres of life. It means two individuals together can accomplish a work better than one individual. In terms of problem solving ability, two heads together can offer more solutions than one head. Whether in school, in office or at home, we see that not only is a work completed in lesser time or a problem is solved with better solution in a less hassled way but also there is a joy when we do it in pairs or groups.
Human beings have different styles of thinking. This engenders various perspectives. So, when two heads work together, multiple perspectives or dimensions come to the fore. A topic or an issue is seen in a more holistic way.

Besides this, two heads can debate over the efficiency of the proposed solutions to solve a problem or a roadmap to accomplish a work. When two individuals work together, the fatigue or anxiety to overcome the hurdles and clinch the target is also less. Therefore, ‘Two heads are better than one.’

or

You attended a leadership camp last week. Describe the event with the help of the hints given below and your own ideas.

Hints: leadership camp - elected cabinet leaders of 30 schools - well-known leader as the trainer - various activities to test skills - competitions - short trip to a nearby tourist spot - closing ceremony

Ans:

The Leadership Camp

Our school election was held last month. I was elected as the cultural secretary of the school. It was a great surprise for me. Like every year, ‘Young Minds’ had conducted the leadership camp, one of the most coveted events for school children. ‘Young minds’ is an organisation which aims to nurture and nourish various skills for school goers.

This year’s leadership camp was named ‘Lead to serve’. The motto of this camp, as the name suggests, was to grow and instil the empathy and compassion which inspires a person to serve the society. The magnitude of the event can be gauged by the fact that leaders from 30 schools participated with sincerity and enthusiasm.

Karuna Roy, the well-known leader who also serves in Mother Teresa’s home for the destitute at Kolkata was the chief guest and trainer of the event. Roy is nationally acclaimed for the defining role he has played during national calamities. I was totally lost in his impactful thought-provoking speeches.

There were various skill-testing activities like conflict resolution, problem-solving, planning and execution. A few competitions towards the end had charged up the spirit of the participants. The venue resounded with shouts and claps when the trainer announced a short-trip to the Bannerghatta zoo.

The closing ceremony was marked by an award ceremony and an engaging discussion on how we, the young leaders, will do to serve the society. My experience at this camp was both educational and emotional.

4. Write a short story based on the given outline or cue/s in about 150-200 words. [10 marks]

It was 11 p.m. Seema was about to shut the door and retire for the day when she saw Bono, her pet dog, in the garden. When she went out to bring Bono inside, she saw Bono frantically digging. Seema screamed when she saw a tiny human finger gradually emerging from the mud. She was petrified. Soon, the listless body of an infant was out. Bono, tired and panting, sat near it as if he was guarding a treasure.

Police had arrived within 20 minutes. The body was taken for post mortem. A constable was designated outside Seema’s house. Police started asking the neighbourhood.

Seema tried to sleep only to wake up frightened and shivering. Once in a while, Bono visited the spot and came back. Seema was waiting for her maid, Mala, who had been on leave for some time. Suddenly, the doorbell rang loud.

It was Mala. Seema was happy to see Mala but there was an unusual rancour on Mala’s face. “Where is your tiny bumble bee,” asked Seema. Mala hurrying her way to the kitchen said, “It’s there.” No sooner did Mala complete her sentence than police barged into the portico dragging Mala’s husband. “Ms. Mala, please tell us,” said the police. “Do you know who had buried that infant in your garden?”

It was then learned that Mala had adopted the child from her dying sister. But her husband understands only relationship of blood. “After heated argument, he had killed the child and buried it here.” A chill ran down Seema spine. Tears ran down her cheeks as she shrank down on the sofa.

or

You are Reena or Rahul. You feel that your friend, Jyoti’s experience during her stay at a hill station can make for a wonderful story. Taking help from the hints given below complete the story and supply a suitable title and moral to it.

Hints: a small girl under her balcony - Jyoti went to her - Jyoti bought flowers from her - this happened every day - Jyoti found the girl to be blind - Jyoti adopted her - the small girl, Megha can now see - Megha and Jyoti ran a school for the blind

Ans:

The Blind Flower Girl

The hills called Jyoti throughout the year. She was especially drawn to the sunrise which painted the hills in orange and pink. This year when she was enjoying the sunrise from her hotel balcony on the second day of her vacation, she saw a small girl standing under her balcony. At first, she rubbed her sleepy eyes. After a while, a faint voice called out, “Miss, these flowers will make your day more beautiful.”

Jyoti went to the slender smiling girl standing with a basket full of variety of flowers. “How much do they cost? I want to buy them all,” said Jyoti. The girl beamed with happiness as it had saved her day’s slogging to sell the flowers.

Next morning, though Jyoti didn’t need the flowers, she somehow wished the girl to be there. To her surprise, she could again hear the same voice calling her.

She ran down to her. The ‘flower girl’ was Megha. Jyoti gave Megha a headband and asked her if she liked it. Megha said smilingly, “My inner eyes say
that it’s very beautiful. Thank you Miss.” Jyoti was
dumbfounded to know that Megha was blind.

After a good search, Jyoti got a donor for Megha. Today, nothing is dark for Megha. Jyoti has adopted
her and together they run a blind school for poor
children and youth. Both have filled each other’s
empty lives with love and compassion.

Moral: Your life will become

5. Read the sentence given below and fill in the blanks
by choosing the most appropriate options from the
ones that follow: [1 x 4 = 4 marks]

Choosing a not-so-popular destination (i) .......... gradually gaining currency (ii) .......... the new-age travellers (iii) .......... they want to experience the calm serene ambiance of (iv) .......... gateways.

(i) (a) was (b) is 
(e) are (d) were

(ii) (a) with (b) by 
(c) of (d) among

(iii) (a) but (b) so 
(e) as (d) because

(iv) (a) this (b) those 
(c) that (d) these

Ans :

(i) (b) is 
(ii) (d) among 
(iii) (c) as 
(iv) (d) these

6. One word is omitted in every line against which a
blank is given. A slash is given in the place where the
word is omitted. Write the word in the given blank. 
[1 x 4 = 4 marks]

‘Let’s read together’ is/effort by an
the famous eg.

(i) Book Lovers Association/develop
an intrinsic – 

(ii) love for reading/children and
youth. A member – 

(iii) of the association presides/a
reading session – 

(iv) in children read aloud some
passages of a book – 

Ans :

(i) to 
(ii) in 
(iii) over 
(iv) which

7. Rewrite the sentences according to the given
instruction. [1 x 4 = 4 marks]

(i) The seeds were sown. (change the voice of
the sentence)

(ii) He said to me, “Is Mohan learning French for
the last two years?” (change the sentence into
reported speech)

(iii) Nivi will book the hotel only if I promise to join
her in the trip. (use ‘unless’)

(iv) Ruskin Bond had been one of the most popular

names in Children’s Literature for a long time. (rewrite the sentence in simple present tense
after making necessary changes)

Ans :

(i) Someone sowed the seeds.
(ii) He asked me if Mohan had been learning French
for the last two years.
(iii) Unless I promise to join Nivi in the trip, she will
not book the hotel.
(iv) Ruskin Bond is one of the most popular names in
Children’s Literature.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

(30 MARKS)

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions
that follow. [1 x 4 = 4 marks]

Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

(i) Name the poem and the poet.

(ii) Identify the line from the given extract that
describes the road that the poet took ?

(iii) What does ‘the other’ refer to ?

(iv) What is the antonym for the word ‘fair’ ?

(v) Which expression means that nobody walked on
the road taken by the poet ?

Ans :

(i) The poem is ‘The road not taken’ by Robert
Frost.

(ii) ‘Because it was grassy and wanted wear;’

(iii) ‘The other’ refers to the road that the poet took.

(iv) Unfair

(v) “wanted wear” is the expression which means
that nobody walked on the road taken by the
poet.

or

One day she noticed a girl playing a xylophone and
decided that she wanted to play it too. Most of the
teachers discouraged her but percussionist Ron Forbes
spotted her potential. He began by tuning two large
drums to different notes.”Don’t listen through your
ears,” he would say, “try to sense it some other way.”
Says Evelyn, “Suddenly I realised I could feel the
higher drum from the waist up and the lower one from
the waist down.”

(i) Who does ‘she’ refer to? What did the teachers
discourage her to do ?

(ii) Who said, “Don’t listen through your ears” ?

(iii) What is the contextual meaning of the word
‘potential’ ?

(iv) What does this extract tell you about Ron Forbes ?

Ans :

(i) ‘She’ refers to Evelyn. The teachers discouraged
Evelyn not to be the percussionist.

(ii) Ron Forbes, the percussionist, said, “Don’t listen
through your ears.”
9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words each. [2 × 5 =10 marks]

(i) How did pungi become shehnai?
(ii) How and why does the poet plan to befriend the wind?
(iii) Who did Kezia compare her father with? What made Kezia think that there were different sorts of fathers?
(iv) Was poet Yeats in love with Innisfree? How can you say so?
(v) What is the irony of the story ‘The lost child’?
(vi) Was the fire both destructive and constructive for the author? How?
(vii) Lushkoff attributes the change of his heart to Olga. Do you agree with him? Or do you think that Sergei is responsible for it? Justify your answer.

Ans:

(i) Pungi made a shrill noise. A barber of Aurangzeb’s kingdom chose a pipe with a natural hollow, longer and broader stem than the pungi and made seven holes on the body of the pipe. It produced soft and melodious sound. As the story goes, since it was first played in the Shah’s chambers and was played by a nai (barber), the instrument was named the ‘shehnai’.

(ii) The poet plans to befriend the wind by building strong homes, shutting the doors firmly and practising to keep the body firm. The poet wants to befriend the wind because she thinks that the wind makes strong fires roar and flourish. So, friendship with the wind is good.

(iii) Kezia compared her father with a giant. She thought that there were different sorts of fathers when she saw the father of the Macdonalds family playing ‘tag’ with his children happily. But her father always spoke angrily with her and chided her for stuttering.

(iv) Yes, the poet Yeats was in love with Innisfree. One can say so because he wants to rise, go to Lake Innisfree and live there alone. The poet also says that it is at Lake Innisfree that he gets peace. The poet finds a kindred spirit in Lake Innisfree and therefore, we can say that he was in love with Innisfree.

(v) The irony of the story ‘The lost child’ is that the child was sad and irritated at his parent’s refusal to whatever he wanted to buy at the village fair. But it is the parents whom he sought frantically when he was lost, despite the man offering him everything that he had wanted to buy earlier.

(vi) The fire had destroyed the author’s house. It had separated him from his pet, Tabby, for a month. But at the same time, this fire constructed new relationships between the author and his classmates at school.

10. Answer the following question in 100-150 words. [8 marks]

What would you have done if you had been the doctor in the dark room with the cobra on your shoulder?

Ans:

If I had been the doctor in the room, I would have perhaps failed to maintain my calm like the way the doctor did. I wouldn’t have perhaps restrained myself from screaming which is the most natural response when we see something utterly scary. But the doctor managed to remain silent. Though the doctor was under extreme pain as the snake had coiled itself around his hand, he still remained quiet. If I had been in his position, I would have possibly tried to shake off the snake and this would have proved fatal. Animals, in most of the cases, don’t react if we remain still and silent. I would have lost my senses and fainted. Surprisingly, the doctor had funny imagination and thoughts about what the snake thought looking at the mirror.

or

Einstein is a synonym for genius. Justify this statement.

Ans:

Einstein was not only the scientist who brought ‘a scientific revolution’ but also a gifted amateur violinist and political thinker. Unlike other children, he started speaking after the age of two-and-a-half. He uttered the first sentence when one night, he broke his silence to say, “The soup is too hot.” His prodigious penchant towards mechanical toys was revealed when he looked at his newborn sister, Maja, and said: “Fine, but where are her wheels?”

Einstein’s ‘Special Theory of Relativity’, which states that time and distance are not absolute, was a ground-breaking finding.

His General Theory of Relativity, published in 1915, provided a new interpretation of gravity. An eclipse of the sun in 1919 proved that the theory was accurate. Einstein had correctly calculated in advance the extent to which the light from fixed stars would be deflected through the sun’s gravitational field. The newspapers proclaimed his work as “a scientific revolution.” Einstein received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921. He also expressed his concern to Franklin D Roosevelt against the atom bomb. He had also written to United Nations to form a world government to conserve peace and democracy in the world. Hence, Einstein is certainly a synonym for genius.

11. Answer the following question in 100-150 words:

Why does the author call himself ‘The Accidental Tourist’?

Ans:

There can be two points of view to understand why the author called himself ‘The Accidental Tourist’.
Tourist’. One point of view interprets the word more metaphorically. The word ‘accident’ is an undesirable and embarrassing incident which one doesn’t expect to happen. From this point of view, the author is an accidental tourist because there was some accident that happened invariably whenever he flew. This embarrassed him to no end. So, he is a tourist who is always prone to accidents. The other point of view interprets the word ‘accident’ as something which none expected to happen but it did. The author, going by the accidents he causes to himself, is not born to be a tourist but has become one. Both the points of view are complementary.

or

‘The last leaf is indeed Behrman’s masterpiece. Justify this statement.

Ans:

An art which is aesthetically supreme as well as begets the most miraculous change in human lives is a masterpiece. An art that defies being an art but also a reality because of its deceptively real nature is a masterpiece.

Behrman’s last leaf looked so real that Johnsy could hardly make out that it was a planted piece of art on the creeper, though she understood at the end that it was but a piece of art. Ironically, art is permanent or permanently captures the nature whereas nature is woven in the cycle of birth, growth and death.

The last leaf did that which Johnsy and the doctor had failed to do: to stir an urge to live in Sue. The last leaf achieved this impossible thing miraculously. It also led Sue to realise that she had been uncooperative to Johnsy. She also realised that ‘it is a sin to want to die’. It was Behrman’s dream to draw a masterpiece before he died. What can be more appropriately defined as a masterpiece than that which dawned hope and an urge to live in a dying soul. The last leaf by Behrman is indeed a masterpiece as it gave new life to Sue.